MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 24, 1981

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12
Fredericksburg, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am a professor of history at Marquette University specializing in federal surveillance policy during the Cold War years. I have written extensively on this subject, including my recent book Spying on Americans (Temple University Press). Presently, I am attempting to acquire FBI files both to further my own general research interests (I propose a follow-up study to Spying surveying the history of FBI investigative authority and programs) and to edit FBI files of general interest to other historians and scholars.

Recently, Howard Bray advised me that you have acquired "new material from Hoover's files." Howard stated that he had mentioned my work to you and that you would be happy to help me. It is for that reason that I am writing. If possible, could you send me copies of the "extensive" FBI files you have received. I would incorporate them in the editing project and deposit them at the Marquette Archives, where they could be researched by other scholars. If you would not find it feasible to duplicate these files in toto, could you send me samples of the files and identify, by serial number or general file, from whence they came. I could then submit an FOIA request for the total file and, more important given my interest in FBI filing procedures, acquire further insights into FBI filing and record retention procedures.

Let me thank you in advance for your willingness to help me. I do know of your own specific research interests and assume that these files pertain to the Kennedy assassination. As an historian of federal surveillance policy, I have found that specific investigative programs and activities provide insights into FBI procedures and practices and further provide background to the changes and evolution of FBI policy.

Sincerely,

Athan Theoharis